

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE NEWS

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United Church of Christ

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FROM THE CONFERENCE MINISTER

Dear Friends of the Conference,

Holy Week has once again moved us! A tradition to remind us of the core of our faith, namely Death and Resurrection. Words that roll easily off the tongues, yet realities which stop us in our tracks. This inseparability of death and resurrection; the captivating mystery which confounds our understanding; the witness to God in Jesus Christ of reconciliation, redemption and renewal. All the forces of death lose their grip; boredom, cynicism, oppression, aimlessness, give-up-it's and despair, melancholy and isolation. We long for new life, but not to let die what no longer is life-giving; we prefer to hang onto what is even painful and a bondage of habit, than to go thru the Red Sea of the pain of deaths. Yet, God by irresistible grace draws us again and again to see what life is intended to be--new life that God gives when death no longer holds sway in our wills.

I pray that God's Spirit will continue to move among us in our churches this Easter Season, for God acts most powerfully through death to bring resurrection. May all of our churches be empowered as resurrection communities of faith.

Faithfully,
Roger Knight

POWER OF THE WORD

Southeast Conference Annual Meeting

The twenty-fourth (24th) Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ begins June 8th at Talladega College.

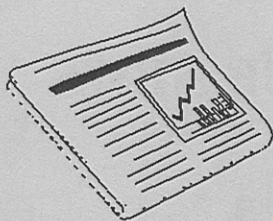
This is a year for celebration and inspiration for our conference. Our keynote speaker is the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, Illinois.

Rev. Dick Sales, Chair of the program committee, is working with his committee to develop inspirational bible study for small group sessions. Other U.C.C. resources will be available of the churches. Rev. Sheila Hunter and Rev. John Pearson, co-chair of the worship committee are coordinating Worship Moments that will help everyone to take time to reflect and be spiritually renewed.

Ms. Francis Smith, chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee is excited about the meeting. We are Biblical people of God who are called into being for mission. Each church and every person is invited to:

- Celebrate life together as God's people in the Southeast Conference.
- Worship God as a gathered community of God's Children.
- Celebrate the power of the word throughout the Church around the world.
- Receive "how to" resources and training for all program areas in our church's life.

Every church needs to be represented. We look forward to our time together.



AROUND THE CONFERENCE

● Dear Lodge, Morgan County Parish, has purchased a new parsonage.

- Congratulations! C. Scott, pastor
- Knoxville - has dedicated a new Allen Organ.
 - Chattanooga Pilgrims - has engaged Douglas Wabrath to consult about their long range future.
 - Belvidere - held an innovative Women's Service for the February Women's Day.
 - Huntsville - has broken ground for a new sanctuary.
 - Athens, Trinity - has begun a fund drive for a Fellowship Building
 - Langdale - has instituted "Adopt A Mile" program.
 - Crossville - On March 18 a Covenant Service signalled the new United Christian Church, bringing together the Churches of the Good Shepherd (UCC) and the Fellowship Christian Church
 - Pilgrimage, Marietta - had a very successful Carnival night.
 - The Food Share program in Alabama is growing, sponsored by more churches and serving more people, Roger Jones, Chair.
 - Montgomery 1st had a innovative Black History Month program.
 - Chattanooga 1st has begun monthly fellowship dinners.

PASTORS

- Robert Cox called to Midway, 2/1. Dick Woodward is full-time teaching.
- Joseph Hough has come as dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School from California.
- Bob Peebles, Pleasant Hill, has announced his resignation as of 12/31/90.
- Bill Smart, Lanott, resigned, effective April 7. Warren Blankenhous is serving as Interim.
- James Myers, William Green, James Fields, Bill Smart all have been recuperating from hospitalizations.

- June Haislip-Hughes has been called as pastor, Crossville, June 15. Welcome!
- John and Terri Hoffman have been called as co-associate pastors, Atlanta Central - Welcome!
- Bill Birkhead has been called as pastor, Waverly, Welcome!
- Ed Benton has resigned Sweetwater, effective April 15.
- Robert Sherad will begin an extended Interim Ministry at Savannah, June - Welcome!
- Dennis Leeds is called to Fredonia, Barnesville, Welcome!

IN MEMORIAM

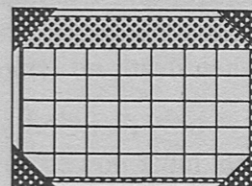
With gratitude to God and blessing to their families for faithful service:

Fred Morris - LaGrange - January.

Ernest Shelton - Trinity, Caddo - in March.

CALENDAR

6/8-10th Annual Meeting
Talladega



[Clergy Retreat Has Been
Postponed till Later]

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

- 9/14-15 Alabama-Tennessee at Birmingham
- 9/21-22 Georgia-South Carolina at Savannah
- 10/13 South Alabama - Northwest Florida
- 10/20 East Alabama
- 10/12-14 Women's Retreat

THE WIDER CHURCH AND THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

The Council of Conference Ministers and Instrumentality Executives had their Annual Meeting, February 6-13, in New Orleans (plus UCC Insurance Advisory Service). President Paul Sherry's visionary leadership had fine response; approval was given for a system-wide

**(The Wider Church Con't)
Planning Process.**

The Pensions Board sponsored a Pre-Retirement workshop, thirty-six persons were in attendance.

Dr. Paul Sherry met with the Board of Directors, plus three other sessions in Atlanta and Nashville, and share with our members.

The Telemission Van and program was here for 6 weeks.

George Otto of Stewardship Council met with our Commission with the results of the Feasibility Study and plans for a Financial Campaign.

Others in the Southeast Conference: Ben Chavis of the Commission for Racial Justice, at Selma; John Potts, UCBHM, to outline Grant Mortgage Recovery program and meet with Button-Gwinette; Coordinating Center for Women Met in Atlanta; Council for Health and Human Services Ministries had their Annual Meeting in Nashville; Carl Bade, UCBHM, consulted regarding work camps and Voluntary Services while he visited projects funded in the Southeast Conference.

Irwin Milton, new Southeastern Regional staff for OCLL, has been here twice - and we look forward to many more!

The Installation of Paul Sherry and Doris Powell was a wonderful occasion, in Cleveland, March 23-25.

Roger Knight chairs the new Conference Committee on Church Development and had their first meeting alone and with UCBHM to develop alternated directions and policies in Church Development.

The First Evangelism Institute with Reuben Sheares, plus Alan Johnson and Martie Swan, UCBHM, brought a good cross-section of our Conference together for an enriching experience.



**NOTES FROM
COMMISSION ON
SOCIAL JUSTICE**

The Commission on Christian Social Justice encouraged churches to participate in Earth Day

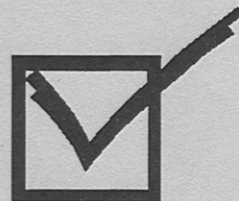
on April 22, 1990. Some churches sponsored one-day recycling events, though many of the churches are not close to recycling centers. Alternative suggestions were made to churches: each parishioner to bring a ceramic mug for coffee or tea. It was hoped that this might become a tradition.

The Commission offers other suggestion to further our common cause of Environmental Stewardship: use paper bags instead of plastic bags and take them back to the grocery store to again bag your groceries. Use reusable "handiwipes" instead of paper towels. And be sure to put a brick in the back of your toilet to conserve a precious resource, water.

The National Offices of the UCC have delivered the new "Freedom of Choice" resource. The Commission will be striving to help each of us, no matter what our stance on this issue, to rediscover our common ground as we explore this powerful and sensitive material. Look for our workshop at Annual Meeting!

And do watch for our column in each Newsletter and another page in each Conference mailing. We will have Environmental Stewardship tips and news alerts for you to share through the bulletin board at your church or through your church's own mission and action committees.

**FAITH WORKS
HAPPENING**



Excitement is mounting as persons from the Southeast Conference prepare to attend Faith Works. "UCC Experience 1990: Faith Works," is scheduled for June 25-29 on the campus of Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind., where over 3,800 will attend.

Guest speakers and preachers include: Maya Angelou, one of the great voices of contemporary literature; Dr. Reuben Sheares, preacher and pastor; Dr. Fred B. Craddock, professor of preaching and New Testament at Chandler School of Theology; Dr. Paul Sherry, President of the UCC; and Dr. Norman Jackson, Conference Minister of the Hawaii Conference.